# Mediators in Istanbul for third round of talks

By Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: The third round of the Pakistan-Afghanistan talks aimed at ending cross-border terrorism and consolidating a fragile ceasefire will begin in Istanbul on Thursday, officials said.

Delegations from both sides arrived in Istanbul on Wednesday for the two-day negotiations being hosted under the joint mediation of Turkiye and Qatar. The talks follow weeks of shuttle diplomacy after deadly border clashes last month plunged relations between the two neighbours to their lowest point since the Taliban seized power in Kabul in 2021.

In this round, Pakistan's delegation is being led by Lt Gen Asim Malik, director general of the ISI, and includes senior officials from the military, intelligence agencies, and the Foreign Office.

The Afghan Taliban's delegation, meanwhile, includes General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI) chief Abdul Haq Waseq, Deputy Interior Minister Rehmatullah Najib, Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen, Anas Haqqani, Qahar Balkhi, Zakir Jalali, and Afghanistan's charg d'affaires in Ankara.

A diplomat from one of the mediating countries, while talking to *Dawn* on anonymity, said the two sides will review the implementation of the commitments reached during the previous round of talks and attempt to finalise the modalities for the monitoring and verification mechanism agreed in principle last week.

At the conclusion of the last round, a joint statement released by the Turkish foreign ministry had said that "all parties have agreed on continuation of ceasefire" and "to put in place a monitoring and verification mechanism that will ensure maintenance of peace and impose penalty on the violating party".

The communique had further said that "the principals" from both sides would reconvene in Istanbul on Nov 6 to discuss implementation.

Despite the interim agreement reached at the previous round, officials in both capitals have kept expectations low about the upcoming dialogue.

Pakistani military and intelligence officials have stated that Islamabad's position remains unchanged, that Afghan soil must not be used for terrorism against Pakistan.

"The Pakistan military and intelligence service have a single-point agenda — the end of terrorism," military spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said earlier this week. Another security official, speaking on anonymity, said Islamabad seeks "concrete, verifiable guarantees".

Earlier in the day, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said, "The delegation has gone today and the negotiations will begin tomorrow morning. Let's hope Afghanistan makes use of wisdom and peace is restored in the region."

# Pakistan to tap Loss & Damage fund

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ideological "divergence over the speed and mechanism of financial disbursements".

"The core tension pits the developing world's urgent need for immediate, bureaucracy-free grants against the developed world's procedural insistence on pre-emptive governance frameworks," said climate policy expert Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, who is an FRLD board member.

According to Mr Sheikh, this friction immediately manifested in the strategic deferral of the Direct Budget Support (DBS) access modality.

"Although established as a conceptual pathway for national governments seeking rapid funding, the Disaster Budget Support (DBS) mechanism remained non-operational until the subsequent B.8 meeting, pending the critical adoption of the necessary Modalities and the Risk Management Framework (RMF)," he said while sharing details about the meeting.

Mr Sheikh described the reliance on interim accreditation through existing multilateral entities as a preference for established financial governance models over immediate, sovereign control.

One of the key criticisms against the fund is its "slow, bureaucratic design and complex rules for access", which are completely at odds with the need for immediate relief, according to Fill the Fund campaigners.

**'Hypocrisy of the North'**

Pakistan's climate minister points to the hypocrisy of the Global North as daunting; they are trying to shift their burden to developing economies instead of paying for damages they caused to the climate during their development. It is very bizarre how these negotiations work out, he said while speaking about bureaucratic procedures that mar the climate talks.

Speaking about divergence between the North and the South, he said the developed world is seeking compliance from the developing states, while the latter are asking for resource pool, technology and finance. "…but commitments are not worth the piece of paper on which they are published unless they are resourced… We say put your money where your mouth is because you have made this money by consuming the climate over the 100s of years," the minister said.

The fund is not on the COP30 formal negotiation agenda, but there will be a meeting of parties to receive a report from the FRLD board, said Tasneem Essop, executive director of the Climate Action Network, at a press conference held on Oct 9 after the board meeting.

*A detailed version of the article can be accessed on Dawn.com*

# Defence ties with Qatar

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Mr Zardari that "Qatar is proud of Pakistan and its achievements, and deeply values the contribution of the Pakistani community to Qatar's development".

He also lauded Qatar's growing global role as a "centre of dialogue and humanitarian diplomacy and paid tribute to its leadership in advocating a ceasefire and humanitarian relief for the people of Gaza".

The president welcomed enhanced Qatari investment in Pakistan and expressed confidence that bilateral collaboration would continue to grow between the two countries under the Qatari emir's leadership, the statement said.

The president later met Qatari Defence Minister Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani and underscored the close and historic ties between their two countries, particularly in the field of defence and security cooperation.

"He expressed satisfaction over the existing collaboration between the armed forces of the two countries in training, capacity building and defence production.

Earlier, the president also met Chinese Vice President Han Zheng, who appreciated Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and promoting regional peace and stability.

Han appreciated Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and promoting regional peace and stability" and reaffirmed the "enduring strength of the Pakistan-China friendship".

He stressed that China would "continue to support Pakistan's economic development under the second phase of CPEC", particularly in transport and infrastructure, IT and agriculture.

# BHC upholds Aimal Wali's Senate election

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court has dismissed a petition challenging the nomination and election of Awami National Party (ANP) leader Aimal Wali Khan to the Senate from Balochistan, ruling that his candidature and election were in full compliance with constitutional and legal requirements.

A two-judge BHC bench comprising Justice Muhammad Kamran Khan Mulakhail and Justice Gul Hassan Tareen announced the verdict on the petition filed by advocates Muhammad Ali Kanrani and Hazrat Ali Kakar.

The petitioners had sought annulment of Aimal Wali's nomination and subsequent election as senator from a general seat of Balochistan, arguing that he was neither a resident nor a registered voter of the province. They contended that the respondent had fraudulently registered himself as a voter in Balochistan in violation of Section 110 of the Elections Act, 2017.

The court observed that the petitioners had failed to produce any evidence to show that Aimal Wali's voter registration or address was obtained unlawfully. Citing Sections 26 and 27 of the Elections Act, the court said that a person is considered a resident of the constituency where their CNIC lists a permanent or temporary address and where their name appears on the electoral roll. Accordingly, the court held that Aimal Wali Khan was fully qualified to contest the Senate election from Balochistan.—Saleem Shahid

# 'IS-K commander' gunned down in Karak

**PESHAWAR: A key commander of the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) militant group was killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak in a late-evening police operation, sources told *Dawn*.**

**Sources said that acting on an intelligence tip-off, police raided a hideout in Ambari village in Karak district. An exchange of fire ensued, resulting in the death of Nisar Hakim, a key IS-K commander.**

**Four policemen were also wounded in the shootout, that lasted around four hours.**

**According to sources, Hakim was believed to be the mastermind of a failed suicide bombing targeting the JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman.**

**Karak has long been under the radar of the security and intelligence apparatus for ISKP network and recruitment.**
**—Bureau Report**

# 27th Amendment may be tabled next week

**Continued from Page 1**

happened in the neighbouring country in the past.

He argued that the 27th Amendment would run counter to the spirit of the Constitution and warned the government against dividing the nation. "It will further jeopardise the independence of the judiciary," he said.

Barrister Gohar said the government was putting the federation at risk by pushing the amendment, adding that it would be inappropriate to claw back population and education from the provinces.

"These subjects were devolved to the provinces with the passage of the 18th Amendment," he noted. He also questioned why a draft of the 27th Amendment had been leaked.

He said the opposition had proposed Mahmood Khan Achakzai as leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, submitting his name to the speaker's office with signatures of 72 MNAs. "As per rules, the speaker should name the opposition leader; otherwise, I shall request Mr Achakzai to occupy the seat himself," he said.

He also recalled the Supreme Court's 2022 judgement directing the federal government to legislate within 45 days to provide civilians convicted by military courts the right to appeal in the civilian judiciary, and called for its implementation.

In his speech, Malik Aamir Dogar demanded that the chair immediately name Mr Achakzai as leader of the opposition under the rules.

Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa, who was chairing the proceedings, suggested the opposition visit the speaker's office to discuss the issue, as a case in this regard was in court.

**Journalists' walkout**

Also on Wednesday, reporters covering the proceedings of the National Assembly also staged a walkout from the Press Gallery before start of Question Hour, to protest recent sacking of employees from a number of TV channels and curbs on media freedom.

Deputy Speaker Ghulam Mustafa Shah sent Information Minister Attaullah Tarar to negotiate with the protesting journalists.

Speaking on the occasion, Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA) MB Soomro expressed his serious concerns over the recent sackings of a number of media workers from TV channels and various media organisations. He also in a forceful manner drew the attention of the minister towards the suspension of the government advertisements to Daily *Dawn*.

Later, speaking on the floor of the National Assembly, the minister expressed concern over the dismissal of journalists by several media organisations without prior notice or valid justification. He said the issue would be raised during a meeting with media owners scheduled for next week.

"We have ensured that timely payments are made to media houses, and we expect that these financial benefits will also reach working journalists and media staff," he said.

Mr Tarar said a delegation of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) had met him to present a charter of demands. These demands will be discussed with media owners, including the Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) and All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS), in the upcoming meeting to find a lasting solution, he added.

# What we (don't) know about proposed changes to Article 243

**Continued from Page 1**

authority over the armed forces in the presidency he occupied at that moment. In effect, the then-army chief arrogated the powers to appoint not only other service chiefs and chairman joint staff committee but also his successor.

This structure largely survived subsequent constitutional overhauls. Even the 18th Amendment, which aimed to restore the parliamentary character of the 1973 Constitution, did not remove the reference to the president as "supreme commander".

Under the original arrangement, the president's role was limited to formal functions such as raising and maintaining the armed forces and granting commissions, while appointments were made on the prime minister's advice in accordance with Article 48.

Civilian leaders later tried to restore the earlier balance. In 1997, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif used the 13th Amendment to remove the phrase "in his discretion", reinstating the prime minister's authority over top military appointments.

But the change proved short-lived. Gen Pervez Musharraf's 17th Amendment restored presidential dominance by replacing it with "in consultation with the prime minister" — effectively reducing the premier to a consultee whose advice the president was not bound to follow. By then, the general had already shifted to the presidency.

The pendulum swung back once again with the 18th Amendment, which repealed Musharraf's changes and made these appointments explicitly subject to the prime minister's advice, reaffirming civilian supremacy.

Each of these adjustments to Article 243 was more than a mere legal modification; they were a reflection of the shifting balance of power between elected governments and the military leaderships.

That said, constitutional experts across the board believe that the proposed changes to Article 243 — though still undisclosed — may run deeper than ever before and could prove far more consequential for the country's power structure than any of the previous ones.

Yet, no one really has a clue as to what exactly is being proposed or why. The scope of the amendment remains unclear.

**Changing nature of conflict**

Even the 'rationale', offered by military sources for the upcoming changes in this article, offers little in the way of clarity.

Conflicts are no longer limited to the traditional battlefield or restricted military spheres, it argues, while maintaining that the emerging security environment is characterised by hybrid, cyber, informational, and space-based threats.

These changes necessitate a reconsideration of the existing defence structure, security officials say, without specifying the proposed changes.

Security circles also argue that the 'impugned article' was formulated according to the requirements of a different era.

The framework was primarily designed in the context of conventional warfare and separate service boundaries, but the demands of modern warfare require far greater integration and synergy.

**Role of the chief**

The renewed discussion around Article 243 may also be linked to the increase in the army chief's tenure to five years, extendable for another five, through the controversial 26th Amendment. However, this change created fresh confusion.

The present army chief – who was recently elevated as field marshal, a ceremonial title not provided for in Article 243 – was appointed under the earlier law providing a three-year term extendable for the same period.

Legal experts hold two conflicting views: one side argues that since the law has been amended, the term automatically stands extended to five years, while the other contends that because the appointment was made under the previous rules, a fresh notification would be required to extend it under the new provisions.

Some lawyers believe the proposed constitutional amendment could be aimed at removing this uncertainty and ensuring clarity regarding the current army chief's term.

Still more speculate that it might be about creating a new position on the pattern of some other countries, where the Chief of Defence Staff is the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, and is responsible for ensuring 'joint-ness' and synergy between the army, navy, and air force.

**Amendment 'isn't the only way'**

Prominent lawyer Sameer Khosa argues that changes in the command and control structure don't require an amendment to Article 243 per se.

"Operational matters and the organisation of the services are governed by the Army Act and the Army Rules. So, unless an amendment touches on the appointment of these four service chiefs, Article 243 need not be changed. For operational or organisational issues, the article doesn't need to be amended."

He also believes that the change in Article 243 could essentially be an attempt to entrench the existing civil-military balance (or imbalance), so that the status quo is preserved.

"For that reason, it appears unlikely that either of the coalition parties — the PML-N or the PPP — will oppose this amendment, as doing so could risk destabilising the government as the coalition depends on the establishment's support to stay in power," Mr Khosa argues.

Waqqas Mir, an advocate of the Supreme Court, differs slightly. "I trust the PPP will thoroughly debate the proposal and its micro elements."

Mr Mir notes that those who have lived in Pakistan long enough do realise that the Constitution does not always reflect our lived reality. "The Constitution is a political document dependent on how various actors shaping the civil-military relations interact. The nuance or complexity of this is at times far more complex than the text of the Constitution," he argues.

*A detailed version of this article can be accessed on Dawn.com*


**TENDER NOTICE**

Bids are invited for the following:

| Tender No. | Description | Closing Date/ Time |
|---|---|---|
| PD/P&C/ PT/31993/ 25 | Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of impressed current cathodic protection (ICCP) system | 24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs. |
| PD/IDP/ PT/32073/ 25 | Renewal of cisco Smartnet | 24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs. |
| PD/O&M/ PT/32076/ 25 | Supply of oil pump for nitrogen booster compressor | 24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs. |

All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.

**Extension in Bid Closing & Opening Dates**

Closing and opening dates of the following tenders have been extended as follows:

| Tender No. | Description | Published On | Revised Closing Date/ Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| PD/GEN/ PT/31879/ 25 | Supply of safety equipment | 16 Oct, 2025 | 24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs. |
| PD/IDP/ PT/31814/ 25 | Specialized services requirement (land surveyor) | 07 Oct, 2025 | 24 Nov, 2025 1500 hrs. |

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**Court Notice**

**In the Court of Senior Civil Judge –I Hyderabad (Before. Asif Ali Jatio) First Class Suit No.1360 of 2025, Haziq Ali S/O Zulifqar Ali, R/o House No 529 Block B Tauheed Park Gulshane Ravi Lahore, Through His Legal and lawful attorney Muhammad Rafique S/o Ghulam Muhammad, R/o Haouse No. 162, Bloch-B-2 Mohallah Unit No. 8, Latifabad, Hyderabad, (Plaintiff), (Versus) 1. Muhamad Adnan S/o Ghulam Sarwar Azam, R/o House No. B-2124, Street No.10, Near Noori Masjid, Jinnah Park Rahim Yar Khan (31303-8785803-7), 2.Deputy Director (Peshawar Region) Excise & Taxation Department Motor Registration Authority, Peshawar. 3.Deputy Director(Mardan Region)Excise & Taxation Department Motor Registration Authority, Peshawar. 4. Excise & Taxation Officer District Charsadda. 5. Senior Station Assistant Police City A- Division Rahim Yar Khan Defendants. Whereas, the Plaintiff named above filed Suit for DELCATION, SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACT AND PERMANT INJUCTION ALONG WITH APPLICATOIN UNDER ORDER 39 RULE 1 & 2 OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDUE READ WITH SECTION 151 CPC. In above titled matter in which you have been cited as defendants. Since it is not possible to serve you in ordinary manner, therefore, you are hereby given notice through this publication to appear before this court on the hearing viz. 21-11-2025 at 8.30 a.m. Personally and file your Written Statement of any. If no appearance in made by yourself or on your behalf through your advocate or anyone else duly authorized by law the above case will be heard and decided in your absence according to law. Given under my and seal of the Court, on this 03rd Day of November, 2025. By Order: C.O.C, Senior Civil Judge-I, Hyderabad**